## REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 16, 2008. Claims 1 to 22 and 59 are pending in the application, of the claims presented for examination, Claims 1, 20 and 21 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claim 21 has been amended to clarify that it is directed to a computer readable medium encoded with a computer program. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,724,492 (Iwase). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus. The image processing apparatus comprise a reading unit configured to read an image on an original and generate image data based on the read image, an image forming unit configured to form an image on a recording medium, a communication unit configured to transmit and receive image data through a communication medium, a first managing unit configured to manage a user by an ID (identification) capable of specifying the user, a first setting unit configured to set an image processing mode from among a plurality of image processing modes, a control unit configured to control said reading unit or said communication unit in order to perform an image input process, and to control said image forming unit or said communication unit in order to perform an image output process, according to the image processing mode set by

said first setting unit, a second managing unit configured to classify each of the image input processes and the image output processes into a plurality of kinds, and to manage, with respect to each of the IDs, an amount of image which has been processed in each of the plurality of kinds, a second setting unit configured to set, with respect to each of the IDs, an upper limit value indicating an amount of image that is allowed to be processed in each of the plurality of kinds and a display control unit configured to select at least one kind from among the plurality of kinds according to the image processing mode set by said first setting unit, and display information indicating the managed amount of image and the upper limit value corresponding to the selected kind on a display unit.

In a system in accordance with the the present invention, if the image processing mode is set by the first setting unit, it is possible to select at least one adequate kind from among the plurality of kinds, and it is thus possible to notify a user of the an amount of image, corresponding to the selected kind, which has been processed and an upper limit value, corresponding to the selected kind, indicating an amount of image that may be allowed to be processed.

This alleviates the problem created when all the amounts of images, corresponding to any respective kind, which have been processed and all the upper limit values, corresponding to the respective kinds, indicating the amounts of an image that are allowed to be processed are displayed without classification. In this case, it is difficult for a user to discriminate which information the user should confirm.

However, in accordance with the present invention, at least one adequate kind is selected from among the plurality of kinds, and the amount of image, corresponding to the selected kind, which has been processed and the upper limit value, corresponding to the selected kind, indicating the amount of an image that is allowed to be processed are

displayed in a manner that distinguishes the image from the information corresponding to unselected kinds of images. Accordingly, it is possible to provide more pertinent information to the user in a way that it is easy for the user to understand.

In contrast, Iwase merely discloses Namely, that image data is received and stored together with a user ID, and, when the stored image data is printed, the density, the number of copies and the like are set based on the user ID via a control panel. However, Iwase does not disclose or suggest at least the features of managing, with respect to each ID, an amount of image which has been processed in each of the plurality of kinds, and setting, with respect to each of ID, the upper limit value indicating the amount of image that is allowed to be processed in each of the plurality of kinds. Accordingly, Iwase does not disclose or suggest selecting at least one kind from among the plurality of kinds according to the image processing mode and displaying the information indicating the managed amount of image and the upper limit value corresponding to the selected kind.

Furthermore, it is contended in the Office Action on page 5, lines 6 to 7 that "print setting has upper limit value and lower limit value, e.g., col. 12, lines 54 to 61 of Iwase" corresponds to the upper limit value of the present invention. However, the relevant portion of Iwase merely discloses that, in the case of setting a color saturation, a mark 285 can be shifted toward the upper limit of the saturation by depressing a saturation-increasing button 283 (Fig. 18). It is apparent that this is quite different from the upper limit value of the present invention which indicates the amount of image that is allowed to be processed in each of the plurality of kinds.

In light of the deficiencies of Iwase as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 20 and 21 are directed to a method and a computer readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 20 and 21 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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